WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present acceptance Quality/ Level as per Schedule 'R' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 is 1.5.

(c) The quality of the Condoms produced in the country conforms to the provisions laid down in Schedule 'R' of the Drugs & Cosmetic Rules. The Provisions of Schedule 'R' have been framed keeping in view the requirement of Condoms for use in the country.

[*Translation*]

Biosphere Reserves

972. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of biosphere reserves in the country so far; and

(b) the extent to which the Genetics is being applied in conserving the biological and genetical diversities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY F ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) So far, seven Biosphere Reserves have been set up.

(b) Genetics is applied as an integral component of the various activities relating to surveys, conservation and multiplication of species.

[*English*]

Air Pollution in Cities

973. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the cities which are living under threat of large-scale toxic emissions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution in those cities particularly in Chandigarh and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). Government of India has identified 17 critically polluted areas in the country. These areas are: Pali (Rajasthan), Korba (Madhya Pradesh, Talcher (Orissa), Greater Cochin (Kerala), Gobindgarh (Punjab), Manali (Tamil Nadu), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Vapi (Gujarat), Najafgarh (Delhi), Chembur (Maharashtra), Dhankes (Bihar), North Arcot (Tamil Nadu), Bhadrawati (Karnataka), Howrah (West Bengal), Digboi (Assam), Durgapur (West Bengal) and Singrauli (Uttar Pradesh). Air quality in 43 cities are being monitored. In Delhi as well as in Chandigarh the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the prescribed standards, Suspended particulate matter is, at times, on the higher side due to natural dusty conditions.

The steps taken by the Government to reduce pollution include the following:

(1) Emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(2) Ambient air quality standards have been evolved.

(3) A net work of ambient air quality